



1 GERARDO PACHECO, et al.  
2 Plaintiffs,  
3 v.  
4 CITY OF STOCKTON, et al.  
5 Defendant.

Case No.: 2:20-cv-01404-TLN-KJN

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER  
FOR STANDARD LITIGATION**

8

9 1. **PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**  
10 Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of confidential,  
11 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for  
12 any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby  
13 stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties  
14 acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to  
15 discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited  
16 information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The  
17 parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order  
18 does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Local Rule 141 sets forth the  
19 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission  
20 from the court to file material under seal.

21

22 Defendants, who are peace officers employed by the Stockton Police Department, anticipate  
23 that Plaintiffs' discovery requests will necessarily include portions of personnel records for the  
24 peace officers involved in the arrest of Plaintiff, training records for these officers, disciplinary  
25 records and other materials related to Defendants' job performance, records of citizen complaints,  
26 and confidential training materials for use-of-force policies and arrest techniques. Defendants  
27 maintain that personnel records are treated as confidential under California State Law. *See Cal.*  
28

1 Penal Code § 832.7(a); Cal. Evid. Code §§ 1040. A protective order is necessary for personnel  
2 records because these records contain private information concerning a peace officer's personal  
3 data, including, in some cases, the officer's family members, home addresses, medical history,  
4 employee benefits, and appraisal of the officer's performance or discipline. Disclosure of that  
5 information is considered a violation of the officer's privacy under state law. *See* Cal. Penal Code §  
6 832.8. Records of complaints against officers are also considered records of personal information  
7 under California's Information Practices Act. *See* Cal. Civil Code § 1798, *et. seq.* Defendants  
8 maintain that an order is necessary prohibiting the parties from using the above categories of  
9 information for any purpose other than that which is necessary to litigate this matter. Because  
10 litigation is conducted in public, these materials could be reviewed and obtained by any member of  
11 the general public, which, in turn, could jeopardize the safety of the officer or any member of the  
12 officer's family. Accordingly, as peace officers who participated in the arrest of Plaintiff, this  
13 material should not be disclosed to the general public.  
14

15         Secondly, a protective order is necessary to protect training materials, use-of-force policies  
16 and arrest and apprehension policies. These materials are kept confidential for reasons related to  
17 peace officer safety so that fleeing felons and arrestees do not learn how officers are trained to use  
18 force and how officers conduct covert surveillance. Divulgement of these materials to the general  
19 public on the court's docket would undermine legitimate law enforcement efforts to conduct safe  
20 use-of-force techniques to initiate arrests and apprehend fleeing felons. This material would also  
21 likely be protected under the official information privilege as articulated in *Kelly v. City of San*  
22 *Jose*, 114 F.R.D. 653 (N.D. Cal. 1987); however, the parties agree and stipulate that a narrowly  
23 drawn protective order, restricting disclosure of these materials to the attorneys for the parties, is  
24 the appropriate procedure for disclosing these categories of information. Under *Kelly*, such a  
25 protective order, rather than a private agreement, is necessary to adequately protect these interests,  
26  
27  
28

1 while allowing the parties the opportunity to engage in discovery of information proportional to the  
2 claims and defenses in this matter. For the foregoing reasons above, there is good cause for the  
3 entry of a protective order.

4

5 2. **DEFINITIONS**

6 2.1 **Challenging Party**: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or  
7 items under this Order.

8 2.2 **“CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items**: information (regardless of how it is generated,  
9 stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil  
10 Procedure 26(c).

11 2.3 **Counsel (without qualifier)**: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their  
12 support staff).

13 2.4 **Designating Party**: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces  
14 in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

15 2.5 **Disclosure or Discovery Material**: all items or information, regardless of the medium or  
16 manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony,  
17 transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery  
18 in this matter.

19 2.6 **Expert**: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the  
20 litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a consultant  
21 in this action.

22 2.7 **House Counsel**: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House Counsel does  
23 not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

24 2.8 **Non-Party**: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity not  
25 named as a Party to this action.

26 2.9 **Outside Counsel of Record**: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this action but are  
27 retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have appeared in this action on behalf of that  
28 party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party.

1        2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees,  
2 consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

3

4        2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material in  
5 this action.

6        2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g.,  
7 photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or  
8 retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

9        2.13 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as  
10 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

11        2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a Producing  
12 Party.

13        3.      SCOPE

14        The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as  
15 defined above), but also (1) any information copied from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts,  
16 summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or  
17 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material. However, the protections  
18 conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following information: (a) any information that  
19 is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving Party or becomes part of the public  
20 domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of publication not involving a violation of  
21 this Order, including becoming part of the public record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any  
22 information known to the Receiving Party prior to the disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party  
23 after the disclosure from a source who obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of  
24 confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a  
25 separate agreement or order.

26        4.      DURATION

27        Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this  
28 Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order

1 otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and  
2 defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and  
3 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this action, including the time limits  
4 for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

5. **DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

6. 5.1 **Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.** Each Party or Non-  
7 Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to limit any  
8 such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating  
9 Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written  
10 communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or  
11 communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of  
12 this Order.

13. Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to  
14 be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber  
15 or retard the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties)  
16 expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

17. If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for  
18 protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties  
19 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

20. 5.2 **Manner and Timing of Designations.** Except as otherwise provided in this Order (see, e.g.,  
21 second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or  
22 Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before  
23 the material is disclosed or produced.

24. Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

25. (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but excluding  
26 transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the Producing Party affix the legend  
27 “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the  
28 material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected

1 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

2       A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available for inspection need  
3 not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which material it would  
4 like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the designation, all of the material made  
5 available for inspection shall be deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified  
6 the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or  
7 portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the specified  
8 documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL” legend to each page that contains  
9 Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the  
10 Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate  
11 markings in the margins).

12           (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that the  
13 Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the deposition, hearing, or other  
14 proceeding, all protected testimony.

15           (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other tangible  
16 items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers  
17 in which the information or item is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions  
18 of the information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall  
19 identify the protected portion(s).

20           5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate  
21 qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party’s right to secure  
22 protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving  
23 Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the  
24 provisions of this Order.

25       6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

26           6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of  
27 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party’s confidentiality  
28 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or

1 a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a  
2 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation  
3 is disclosed.

4       6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process by  
5 providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis for each  
6 challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written notice must recite  
7 that the challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this specific paragraph of the  
8 Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in good faith and must begin the  
9 process by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other forms of communication are not  
10 sufficient) within 14 days of the date of service of notice. In conferring, the Challenging Party must  
11 explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the  
12 Designating Party an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the circumstances,  
13 and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the chosen designation. A  
14 Challenging Party may proceed to the next stage of the challenge process only if it has engaged in this  
15 meet and confer process first or establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the  
16 meet and confer process in a timely manner.

17       6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention, the  
18 Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local Rule 230 (and in  
19 compliance with Local Rule 141, if applicable) within 28 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and  
20 confer process will not resolve their dispute. Each such motion must be accompanied by a competent  
21 declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed in  
22 the preceding paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to make such a motion including the required  
23 declaration shall automatically waive the confidentiality designation for each challenged designation.  
24 Any motion brought pursuant to this provision must be accompanied by a competent declaration  
25 affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed by the  
26 preceding paragraph.

27           The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party.  
28 Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary

1 expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the  
2 Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to file a motion to retain  
3 confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level  
4 of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the court rules on the  
5 challenge.

6     7. **ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

7       7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or  
8 produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,  
9 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the  
10 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has been  
11 terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL  
12 DISPOSITION).

13 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in a secure  
14 manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

15       7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the  
16 court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information  
17 or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

18           (a) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably  
19 necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”  
20 (Exhibit A);

21           (b) the court and its personnel;

22           (c) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and  
23 Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have  
24 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

25           (d) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary  
26 and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise  
27 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or  
28 exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be separately bound by the court reporter and

1 may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order or as agreed  
2 by the Designating Party.

3 (e) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other  
4 person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

5 8. **PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER**  
6       **LITIGATION**

7 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels  
8 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

9 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a copy of  
10 the subpoena or court order;

11 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other  
12 litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective  
13 Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

14 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the Designating  
15 Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

16 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or  
17 court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a  
18 determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the  
19 Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking  
20 protection in that court of its confidential material – and nothing in these provisions should be construed  
21 as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another  
22 court.

23 9. **A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS**  
24       **LITIGATION**

25 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this action  
26 and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with  
27 this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions  
28 should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

1                   (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party's  
2 confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party  
3 not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:

4                   (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all of the  
5 information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

6                   (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in this  
7 litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information  
8 requested; and

9                   (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.

10                  (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of  
11 receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's  
12 confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective  
13 order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject  
14 to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court  
15 order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court  
16 of its Protected Material.

17 10. **UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

18                  If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected  
19 Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the  
20 Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized  
21 disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c)  
22 inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this  
23 Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be  
24 Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

25 11. **INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED**  
26 **MATERIAL**

27                  When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced  
28 material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are

1 those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify  
2 whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without  
3 prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach  
4 an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-  
5 client privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated  
6 protective order submitted to the court.

7 12. **MISCELLANEOUS**

8       12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek its  
9 modification by the court in the future.

10      12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order no  
11 Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or  
12 item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any  
13 right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

14       12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the Designating Party or a  
15 court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may not file in the public  
16 record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected Material  
17 must comply with Local Rule141. Protected Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court  
18 order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at issue. Pursuant to Local Rule141, a  
19 sealing order will issue only upon a request establishing that the Protected Material at issue is  
20 privileged, protectable as a trade secret, or otherwise entitled to protection under the law. If a Receiving  
21 Party's request to file Protected Material under seal pursuant to Local Rule 141 is denied by the court,  
22 then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public record pursuant to Civil Local Rule 141  
23 unless otherwise instructed by the court.

24 13. **FINAL DISPOSITION**

25       Within 45 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each  
26 Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As  
27 used in this subdivision, “all Protected Material” includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,  
28 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the

Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

Date: September 30, 2020

POINTER & BUELNA, LLP

/s/*Patrick Buelna*  
PATRICK BUELNA  
LAWYERS FOR THE PEOPLE  
Attorney for PLAINTIFFS

Date: October 28, 2020

## STOCKTON CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

/s/Sophia M. Retchless  
SOPHIA RETCHLESS  
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY  
Attorney for DEFENDANTS

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## **ORDER**

The court has reviewed the parties' stipulated protective order, which comports with the relevant authorities and the court's applicable local rule. See L.R. 141.1(c);<sup>1</sup> see also Phillips ex rel. Estates of Byrd v. Gen. Motors Corp., 307 F.3d 1206, 1210 (9th Cir. 2002) ("Generally, the public can gain access to litigation documents and information produced during discovery unless the party opposing disclosure shows 'good cause' why a protective order is necessary.") Therefore, the court GRANTS the request subject to the following clarification.

This court's Local Rules indicate that once this action is closed, "unless otherwise ordered, the court will not retain jurisdiction over enforcement of the terms of any protective order filed in that action." L.R. 141.1(f). Courts in the district generally do not agree to retain jurisdiction after closure of the case. See, e.g., MD Helicopters, Inc. v. Aerometals, Inc., 2017 WL 495778 (E.D. Cal., Feb. 03, 2017). Based on this rationale, the court will not retain jurisdiction over this protective order once the action is closed.

Dated: November 18, 2020

Kendall J. Newman  
KENDALL J. NEWMAN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

pach.1404

<sup>1</sup> The Court's Local Rules instruct the parties, when requesting a protective order, to include in their submission:

- (1) A description of the types of information eligible for protection under the order, with the description provided in general terms sufficient to reveal the nature of the information (e.g., customer list, formula for soda, diary of a troubled child);
  - (2) A showing of particularized need for protection as to each category of information proposed to be covered by the order; and
  - (3) A showing as to why the need for protection should be addressed by a court order, as opposed to a private agreement between or among the parties.

**Local Rule 141.1(c).**